

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 06534 022208Z

60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 AID-05 /076 W

----- 055011

R 022126Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5143

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 6534

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OCON, OAS, GT

SUBJECT: OAS QUITO MEETING

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR NOVEMBER 25, FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA ORANTES SAID HE WAS AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN INSISTENCE OF COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA ON BRINGING CUBAN ISSUE TO A VOTE AT QUITO WHEN IT WAS EVIDENT RESOLUTION WOULD NOT PASS. MOREOVER, SPONSORS IN INFORMED PRE-MEETING GATHERING HAD ARBITRARILY REFUSED EVEN TO CONSIDER AS A WORKING PAPER MORE MODERATE DRAFT PREPARED BY GUATEMALA AND MEXICO.

2. MOLINA RECALLED THAT HE AND FONMINISTRY HAD FAVORED MOVEMENT ON CUBAN ISSUE ALONG LINES ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER, BUT HE HAD BEEN OVERRULED BY PRESIDENT LAUGERUD WHEN PRE-MEETING PUBLICITY HAD GENERATED STRONG DOMESTIC OPPOSITION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION AS TO HOW
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HE SAW THE MATTER GOING FROM HERE, MOLINA SAID IT WAS

STILL TOO EARLY TO SAY. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER,
THAT ALTHOUGH COLOMBIAN FONMIN AT QUITO HAD EMOTIONALLY
DECLARED COLOMBIA WOULD PROMPTLY NORMALIZE RELATIONS
WITH CUBA UNILATERALLY, NOTHING HAD YET
HAPPENDED. PERHAPS SOBER REFLECTION WOULD RESULT IN A
MORE CAUTIOUS APPROACH. IN ANY EVENT, CAREFUL PRE-
PARATION WOULD BE NECESSARY ON THIS ISSUE PRIOR TO THE
OAS MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES.
ANDREWS

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NNN

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